

Contents

Preface to the Revised Edition	xi
Preface to the First Edition	xiii
Acknowledgments	xxi
PART ONE — Beginnings	
I. <i>Puritans and Deists 3: Puritan Verse: Anne Bradstreet 8, Edward Taylor 16; Deists: Joel Barlow 24, Philip Freneau 30</i>	
II. <i>Five New England Poets: The Shape of Things To Come 33: William Cullen Bryant 34, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 42, Oliver Wendell Holmes 53, James Russell Lowell 59, John Greenleaf Whittier 69</i>	
PART TWO — Transcendental Dawn	
III. <i>Sursum Corda: The Poet as Friend and Aider 89: Ralph Waldo Emerson 90</i>	
IV. <i>Ecstasy in Concord and Salem 115: Henry David Thoreau 115, Jones Very 123</i>	
V. <i>Transcendental Despair 130: Edgar Allan Poe 130</i>	
PART THREE — The Transcendent Self	
VI. <i>Singing for Soul and Body 149: Walt Whitman 150</i>	
VII. <i>Proud Ephemeral 181: Emily Dickinson 181</i>	
PART FOUR — Doubts, Dilutions, Strategies	
VIII. <i>Some Lesser Figures 225: J. G. Holland 225, Herman Melville 227, Sidney Lanier 235, Stephen Crane 240, William Vaughn Moody</i>	

249, Frederick Goddard Tuckerman 254,
Trumbull Stickney 259

IX. *The Idealist in Extremis* 262: Edwin Arlington
Robinson 262

X. *The Strategic Retreat* 293: Robert Frost 293

PART FIVE — The Revolution of Modernism: Image

XI. *Science and Poetry: Imagism* 331

XII. *Some Imagists* 353: Amy Lowell 353, John
Gould Fletcher 354, H. D. 358, Marianne
Moore 364

XIII. *In the American Grain* 369: William Carlos
Williams 369

PART SIX — The Revolution of Modernism: Idea

XIV. *Ideogram, or the Method of Science* 389: Ezra
Pound 389

XV. *Myth and Memory* 409: Thomas Stearns Eliot
409

XVI. *The Idea of Order: Fictive Music* 428: Wal-
lace Stevens 428

XVII. *Sic Transit Gloria: Six Famous Poets* 443:
Vachel Lindsay 445, Edgar Lee Masters 448,
Carl Sandburg 452, Sara Teasdale 457, Elinor
Wylie 459, Edna St. Vincent Millay 464

XVIII. *Melodies of Chaos* 469: Robinson Jeffers 469,
Conrad Aiken 477, Archibald MacLeish 486

XIX. *The Transcendental and Extraordinary* 493:
Hart Crane 494, E. E. Cummings 511

XX. *Irony and Orthodoxy* 526: *Agrarian Protest*
526: John Crowe Ransom 530, Allen Tate 540,
Robert Penn Warren 543

PART SEVEN — After Modernism

XXI. *Transition* 563: *Signs of the End of Modern-
ism* 563; *New "Schools" of the Sixties and Sev-
enties* 564; *Four Transitional Poets* 566: Theo-
dore Roethke 567, Robert Lowell 580, John
Berryman, 587, Richard Wilbur 591; *Four
Post-Modernists* 600: Robert Duncan 600,

- Howard Nemerov 601, James Dickey 602,
Denise Levertov 605
- XXII. *"For the Time Being"* 607: *"Mortal Acts,
Mortal Words"* 608: Galway Kinnell 608,
James Merrill 608, James Wright 609, W. S.
Merwin 609; *The Two Worlds*: Robert Bly
611; *"As We Know"*: John Ashbery 613; *"The
Condition of True Naming": The Poet as Vi-
sionary* 616; *"Persistences"*: A. R. Ammons
617; *"Staying Alive in a Clear-cut Forest"*:
David Wagoner 624; *Poetry in a Fearful Time*
626; *Postscript* 628

APPENDIX 633

NOTES 655

BIBLIOGRAPHY 693

INDEX 718